

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 AEC-11 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 SSO-00

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5774

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INFO USCINCERUR VAIHINGEN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2758

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/80

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: FUNCTION OF MILITARY COMMITTEE IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION

REF: (A) USNATO 2719; (B) NPG/WP(74)4; (C) PO/74/52

1. AS INDICATED IN PARA. 15 OF REF (A), SYG LUNS AND CHAIRMAN, MC, ADMIRAL HILL-NORTON, MET TODAY AND AGREED ON A SUGGESTED COMPROMISE (PROVIDED IN PARA. 2 BELOW) FOR PARA. 14 OF THE DRAFT NPG REPORT FOR THE DPC ON THE FUNCTION OF THE MC IN NUCLEAR CONSULTATION (REF (B)). SYG LUNS HAS CIRCULATED THE SUGGESTED COMPROMISE TO NPG AMBASSADORS, AND STATES IN HIS COVER NOTE THAT BEGIN QUOTE: IF NO OJECTIONS ARE RECEIVED BY NOON, TUESDAY, 21 MAY 1974, I WILL CONCLUDE THAT THE SUGGESTED REVISION IS ACCEPTABLE. END QUOTE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: 14. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION WOULD STILL HAVE VERY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE AT A LATER STAGE
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DURING CONSULTATION IN THE COUNCIL/DPC AFTER A SPECIFIC RELEASE REQUEST OR PROPOSAL FOR USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAS BEEN RECEIVED. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE COULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE MILITARY ADVICE RELATED TO THE GENERAL

SITUATION BUT ALSO IN RELATION TO THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF SPECIFIC REQUESTS OR PROPOSALS. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE EMPHASIS IN THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AT THIS STAGE WOULD VERY LIKELY FOCUS ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY PERMANENT MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR NATIONAL CAPACITY, WE RECOGNISE THAT, IN THE LIKELY FAST-MOVING SITUATION, MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE MIGHT ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSULTATION PROCESS BY DRAWING ON THEIR PROFESSIONAL MILITARY KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND JUDGEMENT. IN EITHER CASE, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE COLLECTIVE MILITARY ADVICE TO THE COUNCIL/DPC ON ANY ASPECTS OTHER THAN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT A RELEASE REQUEST SHOULD BE GRANTED, AND THEREBY ADD TO THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CAPITALS UPON WHICH ULTIMATE POLITICAL DECISIONS WOULD BE BASED. AS IN THE CASE OF THE COUNCIL/DPC, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SHOULD CARRY OUT ITS ACTIVITIES IN A WAY THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCESS AS SUMMARISED IN PARAGRAPHS 7 AND 8 ABOVE.

END TEXT

3. MISSION COMMENT: WHILE ABOVE LANGUAGE CONSTITUTES CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER HILL-NORTON'S FIRST PROPOSED AMENDMENT (REF (C)), WE CONTINUE TO PREFER TEXT OF NPG REPORT FOR DPC AS WRITTEN (REF (B)). PRINCIPAL REMAINING DIFFICULTY WITH NEW DRAFT IS, IN OUR VIEW, THE SUGGESTION THAT MC COULD PROVIDE MILITARY ADVICE "IN RELATION TO THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF SPECIFIC REQUESTS OR PROPOSALS." THIS POSES RISK OF SITUATION IN WHICH MC WOULD BE INTERPOSED BETWEEN MNC REQUESTING RELEASE OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON AND NUCLEAR POWER MAKING THE DECISION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT OBJECTION TO ABOVE-QUOTED LANGUAGE COULD NECESSITATE ANOTHER NPG PERMREPS MEETING. WE HOPE THAT AT OR PRIOR TO THAT MEETING NEW COMPROMISE LANGUAGE COULD BE WORKED OUT WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE IN TIME
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TO MEET LUNS' DEADLINE OF NOON, MAY 21.
MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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